



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Joseph Piczel

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4139

Report Date: 6/3/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 9/16/2012

Damage Address: 23108 Pierce St, Shelby, Lake

### The Parties

Excavator: **Joseph Piczel**

Address: 11100 Broadway, Crown Point, In 46307

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of Work Performed: Fencing

### Damage Impact

Product Release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: False

Number of Customers Affected: 0

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

### Excavator Activities/Cause of Damage Information:

Excavator Request Locates: No

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions:

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

**Synopsis:** Excavator/occupant struck and damaged an underground natural gas service while performing fencing work.

**Findings:** Reported by Tommy Buher (NIPSCO); excavator/occupant did not respond to initial notice mailed 11/30/2012. Excavator/occupant failed to notify the association for locates prior to commencing work and damaging the gas service with hand tools at a depth greater than twelve (12) inches.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide notice of excavation.

**Violation: IC 8-1-26-16(g) Failure to provide notice of excavation.**



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

February 4, 2013

*Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4139  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4139

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached please find Northern Indiana Public Service Company's ("NIPSCO") written information, and supporting documentation, relating to the following event:

Date of Event: 9/16/2012

Event Location: 23108 Pierce St

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Joseph Piczel

Other Party:

Pipeline Division Case No. 4139

NIPSCO has reviewed its recovery and damage prevention files for this matter and has provided answers, when known, to the list of questions set forth in the Information Request. To the extent available, NIPSCO is also providing a copy of the Damage Information Report – Pipeline Safety Division previously submitted by NIPSCO to IURC Pipeline Safety as well as additional documentation relating to this Event Location.

Upon completion of the investigation, NIPSCO requests that it be provided with a copy of the Pipeline Division's Investigation Report with findings that will be forwarded to the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee. If there are any additional questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Christopher C. (Kit) Earle  
NiSource Corporate Services - Legal  
Phone: 317-684-4904  
Fax: 317-684-4918  
Email: [cearle@nisource.com](mailto:cearle@nisource.com)

<b>IURC INFORMATION REQUEST</b>	
<b>Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 4139</b>	
Date of Event	9/16/2012
Event Location	23108 Pierce St
Event City	Shelby
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Joseph Piczel
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Joseph Piczel
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	11100 Broadway
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Crown Point, IN 46307
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	219-663-2279
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	LUKE SELKING
TITLE	
ADDRESS	1501 HALE AVENUE
CITY/STATE/ZIP	FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260/439-1290
SECONDARY TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM
<b>LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	USIC
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Morgan Thompson
TITLE (IF ANY)	Claims Coordinator
ADDRESS	9045 N. River Rd. Suite 300
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Indianapolis, IN 46240
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	1-317-538-7301
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	morganthompson@usicinc.com
<b>OTHER (WITNESS, POLICE, FIRE, OTHER) INFORMATION</b>	
PERSONAL CONTACT	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	

ADDRESS	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>UTILITY LINE IMPACT</b>	
<b>LOCATION OF DAMAGE</b>	
ADDRESS	23108 Pierce St
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Shelby, IN 46356
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	X
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	5/8"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	N
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	0
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	N
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	
<b>CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)</b>	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	X
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trancher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	
Bldg. Demolition	
Drainage	
Driveway	
Electric	
Engineering/Surveying	
Fencing	X
Grading	
Irrigation	
Landscaping	
Liquid Pipeline	
Milling	
Natural Gas	
Pole	
Public Transit Authority	
Railroad Maintenance	
Road Work	
Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)	
Site Development	
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	N
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	N

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	N/A
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	N
<b>INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION</b>	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	0
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>No notification to one call center.  Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1209160098</p>	



**NAMES OF UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**  
N/A

**NAMES OF EXCAVATOR'S REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**  
N/A

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**  
N/A

**WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?** No

**WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?** Yes

**WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?** No

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** Cut in line

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** 2'

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** No

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?**

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** No

**IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)**



# DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Sep 28, 2012

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## Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Tommy Buher

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 E. 15th Ave.

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): 219-962-0422

Fax number (*area code*): 219-962-0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

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## Excavator Information, if known

Full name: Joseph Piczel

Business address (*number and street*): 11100 Broadway

City, State, and ZIP code: Crown Point, IN 46307

Telephone number (*area code*): 219-663-2279

Fax number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

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**Date and Location of Damage**Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Sep 16, 2012

County: Lake

City: Shelby

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
23108 Pierce St Shelby, IN 46377

Nearest intersection: W 231st Ave.

Right of way where damage occurred: Private - Land Owner

Was there a release of product? Yes

If yes, was there an ignition of product? No

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release? No

If yes, how many evacuated? 0

Was there a customer service interruption? No

If yes, how many affected? 0

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 4

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$

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**Affected Facility Information**

What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural Gas

What was the affected facility? Service/Drop

What was the depth of the facility, in inches? 18

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**Notification, Locating, Marking**

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known:

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Other

If other, please specify: no locates requested

Was site marked by "White Lining"? No

Were special instructions part of the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? No

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

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### **Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --No notification made to the one-call center

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### **Additional Comments**

Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1209160098

# NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

\*\* COMPLETE FORM FOR ALL DAMAGES TO NIPSCO FACILITIES \*\*

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Crown Point MAXIMO WO # \_\_\_\_\_  
 OPERATING AREA CONTACT M. Schirock JOB ORDER # 583913  
 TRACKING NUMBER 018 2012 0916 002 LOCATE REF # N/A  
 Locate Performed By: WSIC

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 10:43 AM 9-16-12 20\_\_\_\_ M DATE OF REPORT 9-16-12  
 PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 23108 Pierce St. Shelby IN 46377

**DAMAGE WAS TO:**

**ELECTRIC** - POLE / TRANSFORMER: # \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR INSTALLED \_\_\_\_\_ BROKEN YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

**GAS:** SERVICE  MAIN ( ) SIZE 5/8" MATERIAL: PLASTIC  STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )  
 OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

DEPTH OF FACILITY (Inches) 18" PRESSURE (PSI) 45 Lbs.

RELEASE OF GAS: YES  NO ( ) IGNITION OF GAS: YES ( ) NO  EVACUATION REQUIRED: YES ( ) # \_\_\_\_\_ NO

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES ( ) NO  NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 0

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 10:43 TIME SHUT OFF 14:45 TIME RESTORED N/A

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 5/8" Meter off

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES ( ) DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS \_\_\_\_\_ NO   
 HOW LOCATED: PAINT ( ) FLAGS ( ) BOTH ( ) WHITE LINED ( )

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Joseph Piczel "OFF" 663-2279

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 1100 Broadway. Crown Pt 46307

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Joseph Piczel

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT # \_\_\_\_\_  
 FIRE ( ) AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT # \_\_\_\_\_  
 OTHER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Any Injuries? ( ) YES # \_\_\_\_\_  NO

PHOTOS TAKEN: YES ( ) NO  TAKEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (ATTACH PHOTOS TO REPORT)  
 MEDIA ON SITE YES ( ) NO

**WORK IN PROGRESS WHEN FACILITY DAMAGED** — CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- |  |                                     |  |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE/FARMING | <input type="checkbox"/> CABLE TV   | <input type="checkbox"/> CURB/SIDEWALK | <input type="checkbox"/> TELECOMMUNICATIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLDG CONSTRUCTION   | <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOLITION | <input type="checkbox"/> DRAINAGE      | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRIVEWAY            | <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTRIC   | <input type="checkbox"/> SURVEYING     | <input type="checkbox"/> DRAINS/CULVERTS    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FENCING  | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADING    | <input type="checkbox"/> IRRIGATION    | <input type="checkbox"/> MOWING             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPING         | <input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING       | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POLE/SIGN POST      | <input type="checkbox"/> ROAD WORK  | <input type="checkbox"/> SEWER         |   |

**TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED** — CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUGER             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAND TOOLS | <input type="checkbox"/> BACKHOE/TRACKHOE  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PROBING DEVICE        | <input type="checkbox"/> BORING / DRILLING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOSIVES        | <input type="checkbox"/> TRENCHER              | <input type="checkbox"/> FARM EQUIPMENT    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VACCUUM EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADER                | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____       |

**REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED** — CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMOTIVE ACCIDENT        | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCAVATING BEFORE LOCATES DUE | <input type="checkbox"/> CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO NOTIFICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MARKS DISTURBED               | <input type="checkbox"/> STUB                      |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____               |

• SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

SIN #110601 Rev. 6-12

JQ583913

COMMENTS:

*no locates requested*

PERSON PREPARING REPORT

*1122175 Eric C. Garcia*

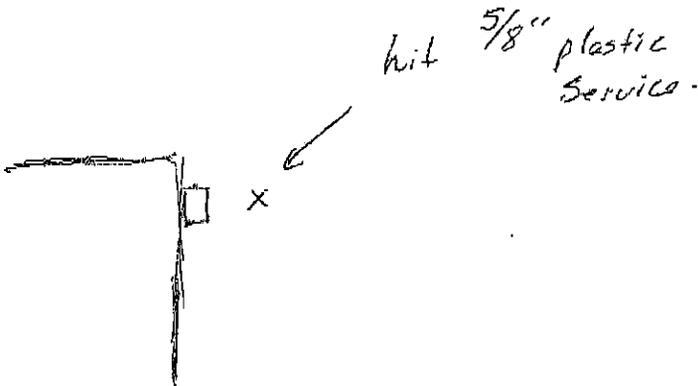
FIELD SUPERVISOR

*[Signature]*

FIELD MANAGER

- ORIGINAL REPORT AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION IS TO BE SENT TO FACILITY DAMAGE RECOVERY
- COPY OF REPORT IS TO BE SENT TO DAMAGE PREVENTION

SKETCH: - Show position of all pertinent information



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| • DID EXCAVATION OCCUR BEFORE LOCATES WERE DUE  | YES | NO |
| • NO IN 811 LOCATE CALLED IN                    | YES | NO |
| • DAMAGE CAUSED FROM EXCAVATION WITHIN 24" ZONE | YES | NO |
| • EXPIRED LOCATE                                | YES | NO |
| • WAS WHITE LINING INDICATED ON LOCATE REQUEST  | YES | NO |

COMPLETED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



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INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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23108 Pierce St

Nearest intersection: W 231st Ave.

Right of way where damage occurred: Private - Land Owner

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If yes, was there an ignition of product? No

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release? No

If yes, how many evacuated? 0

Was there a customer service interruption? No

If yes, how many affected? 0

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 4

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$

---

**Affected Facility Information**

What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural Gas

What was the affected facility? Service/Drop

What was the depth of the facility, in inches? 18

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**Notification, Locating, Marking**

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known:

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

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If other, please specify: no locates requested \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Additional Comments**

Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1209160098